



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

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07 Jul 03

Dear Colleagues,

May the Lord give you peace! On Tuesday, 17 June 2003, the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Bill Frist, announced the selection of Rear Admiral Barry Black, CHC, USN, to become the next Chaplain of the United States Senate.

Chaplain Black's selection to this prestigious position marks a watershed event for military chaplaincy; Admiral Black will be the first former military chaplain to serve in this capacity. It is a great tribute both personally to Chaplain Black and corporately to all Navy chaplains and their ministry to the Sea Services. As you know, Admiral Black is eminently qualified to assume this national office. If spiritual leadership, preaching acumen, pastoral sensitivity, and academic and professional achievements are indicators of future potential, he will most certainly be remembered as one of the greatest chaplains to hold this esteemed post.

The Senate has asked Chaplain Black to assume his new duties post-haste. As such, he must leave his current position as the 22nd Chief of Navy Chaplains and take up his new place on Capital Hill almost immediately. I have been asked to assume the post of 'Acting Chief of Navy Chaplains' upon Chaplain Black's departure.

All orders, directives, and initiatives of the last administration will remain in effect until further notice. All decisions made by the Chief of Chaplains and his staff will be filtered through three simple criteria:

- 1) *Will the decision/initiative/goal best meet the spiritual and moral needs of the People of God?*
- 2) *Will the decision/initiative/goal best meet the institutional needs of the Sea Services?*
- 3) *Will the decision/initiative/goal best meet the needs of the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy?*

The legacy of past Chaplain Corps administrations inspires us to harness our collective energy for serving in the one to come. We may gain wisdom from the guidance, insights, and reflections of Paul of Tarsus as recorded in I Corinthians 12:4-6:

There are different gifts but the same Spirit of God; there are different ministries but the same Lord of creation; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone.

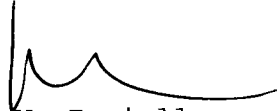
Navy chaplains are afforded the opportunity to serve the people of God in a diverse theological, cultural, and racial environment. We celebrate this diversity and view it as a source of great strength and potential for our Corps. Yes, we come from different creeds, races, and political agendas, yet we all share a common goal: to facilitate the free exercise of religion for all of our military members and to manifest God's beneficence, justice, love, and healing in all we do for our DoD, DoT, DHS, and DoS personnel.

May God bless our critical ministry in the days ahead. May God bless Barry and Brenda Black for their inspired leadership to our country. And may God bless our beloved Chaplain Corps that it may meet the needs of all and continue to draw all to the love, compassion, healing, and wisdom of God.

I look forward to visiting with you in Washington for the Change of Office and Admiral Black's retirement ceremony on 15 August. Let us continue to pray with and for one another, and let us reflect on the sage and inspired words penned by the preacher:

Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this. Wisdom is good with an inheritance, and profitable to those who see the sun. (Ecclesiastes 7:10-11)

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis V. Iasiello'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke at the beginning and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Louis V. Iasiello
Rear Admiral, Chaplain Corps
U. S. Navy
Acting Chief of Navy Chaplains